What Happened To The Burried Cannon at Appomattox?

THE APPOMATTOX STORY ....

(Editor's note: The "Appomattox Story" is a fabulous saga of American history. Under that caption, we are running a series, as space permits, of some of the famous incidents connected with the history of the ending of the War Between the States here on April 9, 1865)..

Older residents of Old Appomattox have heard for years and told of the report that when Gen. R. E. Lee surrendered the Army of Northern Virginia to Gen. U. S. Grant on Palm Sunday, 1865, there was one group of Confederates who buried their cannon rather than surrender them. Some have attempted to locate the spot, and possibly uncover the cannon. It is known that the South had over sixty cannon for the last fight at Appomattox, and one historian described the artillery battle on the last day of the War as one of the most severe of the entire struggle.

The Times-Virginian has secured the following interesting article as a reprint from: In Camp and Battle with the Washington Artillery, Boston, Ticknor and Company, 1885, PP. 380-381. The story of this famed Louisiana unit was told by William M. Owen.

We quote:

"At Amelia Court-House all of the artillery battalions of the army, except ours and that of Lieut. Col. John C. Haskell, were sent off ahead of the army to try and reach some point in North Carolina to recruit, and obtain fresh horses if possible. These battalions were under the command of Gen. R. Lindsey Walker. After we went into bivouac this evening, the artillery firing, we had heard in front late in the afternoon, seemed to be approaching nearer. It was not a great while before long trains of wagons came tearing down the road from the front, the drivers whipping up their mules and shouting lustily. I mounted my horse and rode forward to see what was the matter. I had not gone far before I came up to a force of infantry that were being aligned across the road and preparing for defence. Here I met some officers and men of the Washington Artillery, from whom I learned that Gen. Walker's column of artillery (about sixty pieces) had been marching in front of the army all day, and at about 4 P. M. halted in a grove just before reaching Appomattox Station, on the Lynchburg railroad. Everything had been so quiet that they concluded to have a good rest, the officers and men taking advantage of the time to wash up and refresh themselves. It was not thought necessary to put out pickets, as the enemy was supposed to be pushing only our rear. While enjoying this supposed security, all of a sudden, a bugle-call rang out upon the air, and a squadron of Federal cavalry was seen preparing to charge. Men rushed to their guns in a hurry, horses were hitched up, and as the enemy advanced they were met by a raking fire of canister, which repulsed them. But again and again the enemy, reinforced, charged. They were Sheridan's cavalry. The artillery that could be gotten off, fired retiring, and fell back to Appomattox Court-House, where in the streets of the town, they met infantry coming to their support, who in turn drove the cavalry back with loss. But the Washington Artillery, fighting to the last, and evading capture with difficulty, destroyed the gun-carriages, buried their guns in the woods, and nearly all the officers and men went to the mountains. They fired their last shot today, after three years and nine months' service in the field since Bull Run, July, 1861."

So there is the story. "They buried their guns in the woods." But where are the buried cannon? They have never been found! Surely the buried cannon will be found, someday, and this is one of the most challenges stories about the famed end of the War at Appomattox!

The last artillery battle is supposed to have been fought between Old Appomattox Court House and Appomattox Station. But where did the Washington Artillery bury its cannon?

One angle may be added to this story, and that is the belief that the Yankees were the ones who found the location of the buried cannon and retrieved them. Maybe that explains why they have not been located since by exploring parties!

FARM NEWS

By Jim Smith, County Agent

Enjoy Native Plants

"You cannot eat your cake and have it," is a familiar expression; however, such is not the case with our natural plant life. We can enjoy the use of our wild flowers and still have them, if we do so thoughtfully. This is what we mean by conservation. Use the plants wisely so that we can have them and they can perpetuate themselves. Some plants are not very productive and should be picked or transplanted very sparingly, if at all. Others may be used more freely.

U. S. Rubber posts record net for quarter.

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$80,000 IN OLD DEBTS

Beaumont, Texas.- Owner Jack Tinkle has cleared the books of unpaid accounts totaling more than $80,000 at his hardware and furniture store.

Tossing the bills into an incinerator, Tinkle said:

"I'm forgiving all debts to me, and I'm forgiven, too. I figure those who have been staying with my store because I was frequent in their account when they knew I was forgiven."

Some of the bills were old.

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Appomattox :-: Virginia

FT LAWS ARE LATNED BY BOARD

which has been extended for one month July 1, 1963. This affects the young men of the country must continue to expect to serve in the military forces. This series of articles outlines the basic responsibilities and rights of young men under the draft law.)

This is the third article of the series.

There are five general classes with numerous subdivisions which local boards use to indicate whether a man is available, deferred, or exempt—and why.

Every man is considered as available for induction, in Class 1-A, until his eligibility for some other classification is established to the satisfaction of the local board.

If a registrant does not establish his eligibility for deferment or exemption because of hardship, occupation, study, Reserve or National Guard membership, or other reason, he is placed in Class 1-A. In the normal case, a registrant in Class 1-A will be ordered for an Armed Forces examination shortly before his time to enter service, to determine whether he is acceptable physically, mentally, and morally. If he is rejected, he is deferred in Class IV-F. If acceptable, he is kept in Class 1-A until he is reached for induction.

All registrants in Class 1-A are divided into categories in an order of priority for induction.

Local boards in meeting their quotas first summon men who have been declared delinquent for failure to comply with the draft law. Next to be taken are men who volunteer for induction. Then the local boards complete their monthly quota by calling those Class 1-A acceptable men between ages 19 and 26 who do not have children with whom they maintain a bona fide home. They are called in the order of their dates of birth, oldest first. The present average age of call is just under 23.

Most available men are in this category and it is sufficiently large to meet the needs of the Armed Services under present conditions.

If this category were exhausted, local boards would next call fathers 19 to 26, by birth date, oldest first; then men over 26, youngest first; and finally, men 18½ to 19, oldest first.

(The next article will discuss deferments and exemptions.)

WINNERS ANNOUNCED

The Appomattox Baptist Training Union Association claimed four winners at the District Training Union Eliminations held at the Brookneal Baptist Church on Tuesday, May 5. There were five associations taking part in the twelve contests.

The Young People's Poster exhibit was won by Mr. Jerry Martion. He is a student at Appomattox High School and a member of the Spout Spring Baptist Church. He is the son of Mr and Mrs . Wesley Martin, of Spout Spring. His poster theme was worship and church music.

The Young Peopple's Essay Contest was won by Mrs Joyce Vaughan. She is a graduate of the Appomattox High School and a member of Liberty Baptist Church. She is the former Miss Joyce McCormick, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. R. McCormick, of Spout Spring. Her essay contained one thousand words, and the subject was "Witnessing For Christ."

The Intermediate Speakers Tournament was won by Miss Audrey Evans, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Evans, of Appomattox. She is a student at Appomattox High School and a members of Liberty Baptist Church. Her speech was entitled, "Keep Thyself Pure" and lasted six minutes in length.

Mrs. Lowell Thomas won the Adult Poster exhibit. Her poster theme was centered around the faith of a child. She is a member of the Calvary Baptist Church in Concord, and is a graduate of Concord High School.

These four young people will represent the district at the state finals which will be held at Eagle Eyrie. Rev. Carol Welch is the director of the association from which these winners come. All of the winners were also from Group Four, which is directed by Mr. Franklin Vaughan.

Low-Level Dining

Denver.- When Robert Millard, 39, sawed off the legs of his wife's new dining room table, she says she at first tried to grin and bear it.

"We sat on pillows to eat our meals," Mrs. Millard, 38, told Judge Nell Horan. "We would lie on the floor to talk, and we had to lean against the wall to read."

Said Mrs. Millard of her husband: "He just wanted to be different."

She was granted her divorce.

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